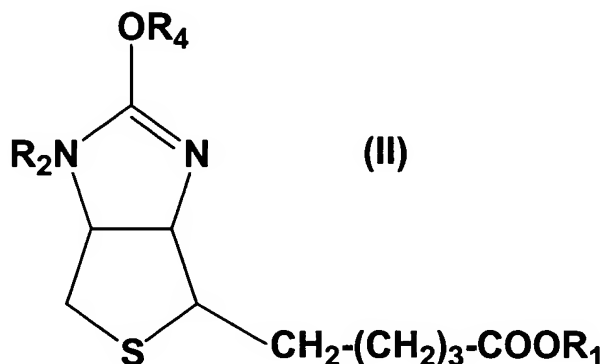
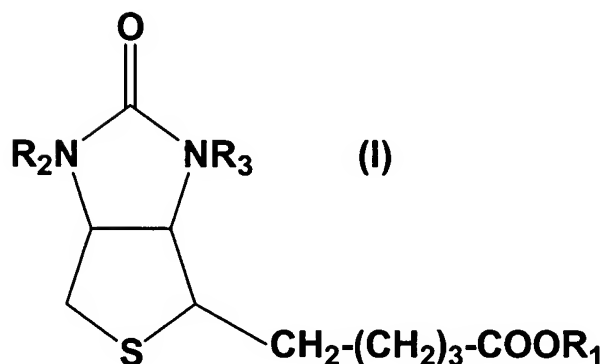


CLAIMS:

1. Use of biotin, a biotin derivative or a salt thereof for manufacturing a composition for lightening the skin, smoothening skin color irregularities and/or treating senile lentigos.
2. Use according to claim 1, wherein the biotin salt is an alkali salt, an earth alkali salt, an ammonium salt or a hydrochloride of the biotin or the biotin derivative.
3. Use according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the biotin derivative is a compound of formula I or formula II:



wherein

R₁ is H, C₁-C₂₀-alkyl, C₅-C₇-cycloalkyl, or aryl;

R₂ and R₃ are each independently H or C₁-C₅-alkoxycarbonyl; and

R₄ is H, C₁-C₂₀-alkyl or C₁-C₅-alkoxycarbonyl.

4. Use according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the composition is for topical administration.
5. Use according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the composition is for oral administration.

6. Use according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the composition is a cosmetic composition.
7. Use according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the composition is a pharmaceutical composition.
8. Use according to any of claims 1 to 7, wherein the biotin, the biotin derivative or the salt thereof is present at a concentration of 0.001 to 50% by weight, in relation to the weight of the composition.
9. Use according to claim 8, wherein the biotin, the biotin derivative or the salt thereof is present at a concentration of 0.01 to 1% by weight, in relation to the weight of the composition.
10. Use according to any of claims 1 to 9, wherein the biotin, the biotin derivative or the salt thereof are used together with vitamin C or a vitamin C derivative.
11. Use according to claim 10, wherein the biotin, the biotin derivative or the salt thereof is used together with sodium ascorbyl phosphate or a hydrate thereof, in particular the dihydrate thereof.
12. Use according to claim 10 or 11, wherein the vitamin C or the vitamin C derivative is present at a concentration of 0.001 to 50% by weight, in relation to the weight of the composition.
13. Use according to claim 12, wherein the vitamin C or the vitamin C derivative is present at a concentration of 0.1 to 15% by weight, in relation to the weight of the composition.
14. Use according to any of claims 9 to 13, wherein the weight ratio of the vitamin C or the vitamin C derivative, respectively, to the biotin, the biotin derivative or the salt thereof is 500:1 to 1:500.

15. Use according to claim 14, wherein the weight ratio of the vitamin C or the vitamin C derivative, respectively, to the biotin, the biotin derivative or the salt thereof is 30:1 to 1:30.
16. Use according to any of claims 9 to 15, wherein the composition is arranged such that the biotin, the biotin derivative or the salt thereof and the vitamin C or the vitamin C derivative, respectively, are physically separated.
17. Use according to claim 16, wherein one of the active ingredients is formulated for oral administration and the other is formulated for topical administration.